Over this past summer, a woman murdered a man because she believed the man was a witch. As the story unfolded it was revealed that there were heavy drugs and alcohol. Although this may seem like a crime not worth mentioning for the Pagan community it is one that its members must take notice of. Simply because the reality of being murdered for your religion is very real for modern polytheists.

Everyone knows people of different faiths. It's one of the hallmarks of living in a pluralistic society. It must be remembered that some religions do preach that killing pagans is a positive. This teaching has fueled hate throughout the centuries and some individuals still believe that it's a duty to harm those of other faiths. Some of these individuals are open about their beliefs and can be seen on social media. Plenty of Knights of Christ and Holy War extremists would love to glorify their God with blood.

The loud ones are easy to spot but then you have stealthy believers. These are the ones that downplay their extremist cousins while secretly holding the same beliefs. These are the ones that will befriend you, and infiltrate the community before they murder their religious enemies.

With the rise of Christian nationalism and some preaching against the separation of church and state those in the Pagan community must be ever alert. This does not mean that Pagans should hide in the broom closet, it means to be wise. It means vetting someone before you open up about your spirituality.

Many in the Pagan community don't like to discuss such topics. They would rather push away the topic of becoming a martyr. A martyr is not by choice but by simply holding to a different set of values, and worldviews than the majority of people in society. So many younger Pagans live their lives without understanding that dangers exist. It is paramount that the Pagan community never forgets that they are potential targets for extremists.

In certain parts of the United States, many Pagans still have to hold their rituals in gatherings in secret. They must hope that they are not discovered because if they are it could mean their lives.

Many Pagans hide their religious beliefs from the jobs they hold. A job may not kill you but someone you work with may. Also, many individuals still have misgivings about what Pagans are which may make one feel ostracized.